

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information recording apparatus for recording multi-leveled information in a phase-change recording medium by the application of a laser beam thereto, comprising:

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means for modifying a power level of said laser beam into two or more power levels so as to correspond to said multi-leveled information, and for setting a plurality of recording mark units including therein at least one recording mark to be formed, based on said modified power levels, so as to correspond to said multi-leveled information, said means for modifying said power level of said laser beam further changing at least one of said power levels in a level retention time thereof so as to correspond to said multi-leveled information; and
means for applying at least two laser beams having different power levels to form said at least one recording mark, and for varying a power level of one of the at least two laser beams to form the plurality of recording mark units.

Claim 2 (Original): The information recording apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each of said recording mark units has a power level that corresponds to the total area of said one or more recording marks included in each of said recording mark units.

Claim 3 (Original): The information recording apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each of said recording mark units includes one recording mark and has a track-direction length in a range of 0.5 to 1.0 times a beam diameter defined by $1/e^2$, and the area of said recording mark in each of said recording mark units is changed for recording said multi-leveled information.